



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/0564
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

Press statement - Civil liberties in the seventies

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/0564

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

564
134

PRESS STATEMENT.

FROM: MR. D. A. DUNSTAN, QC, MP.

SUBJECT: CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE SEVENTIES.

Unless Australian Federal and State Governments introduced strong legislation to control the use of bugging and observing devices Australians would find the 1970's the beginning of an era where eavesdropping and the use of electronic listening devices were commonplace, the Leader of the SA Opposition (Mr. Dunstan) said in Melbourne today.

He was speaking to the Melbourne Order of B'nai B'rith about civil liberties in the seventies, and warned that unless moves were made now to check bugging before it started, the old saying "an Englishman's home is his castle" would become meaningless.

Mr. Dunstan said the only State in Australia to have any legislation to control bugging devices was Victoria.

"However, this legislation has two basic faults.

"It covers only aural listening devices, and not the visual observation devices that are also freely available and just as easy to conceal.

"Secondly the use of both types of devices is hard to prove, so a law that prohibits their use and not their possession is useless."

Mr. Dunstan said that one of the developing horrors of the invasion of privacy was radio, that once swallowed, turned the unknowing victim into a human transmitter.

"One Australian magazine I have seen advertises 'snooping for fun' .

"In fact no place is safe from the snooper - he can bug toilets, bedrooms, the telephone, conceal microphones inside brick walls, and can even sew wafer thin transmitters into clothing."

Mr. Dunstan said that while it may be impossible to draft laws that would encompass all means of surveillance, every effort should be made to make legislation as wide ranging as possible.

He said that bugging devices would be only one of the things Australians would have to guard their civil liberties from in the 1970's.

Others would be police dossiers on private people, the accessibility of private computer records, the freedom to read, and general police warrants that were at present granted for no specific reason at all.

.....

PRESS STATEMENT.FROM: MR. D. A. DUNSTAN, QC, MP.SUBJECT: CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE SEVENTIES.

Unless Australian Federal and State Governments introduced strong legislation to control the use of bugging and observing devices Australians would find the 1970's the beginning of an era where eavesdropping and the use of electronic listening devices were commonplace, the Leader of the SA Opposition (Mr. Dunstan) said in Melbourne today.

He was speaking to the Melbourne Order of B'nai B'rith about civil liberties in the seventies, and warned that unless moves were made now to check bugging before it started, the old saying "an Englishman's home is his castle" would become meaningless.

Mr. Dunstan said the only State in Australia to have any legislation to control bugging devices was Victoria.

"However, this legislation has two basic faults.

"It covers only aural listening devices, and not the visual observation devices that are also freely available and just as easy to conceal.

"Secondly the use of both types of devices is hard to prove, so a law that prohibits their use and not their possession is useless."

Mr. Dunstan said that one of the developing horrors of the invasion of privacy was radio, that once swallowed, turned the unknowing victim into a human transmitter.

"One Australian magazine I have seen advertises 'snooping for fun' .

"In fact no place is safe from the snoopers - he can bug toilets, bedrooms, the telephone, conceal microphones inside brick walls, and can even sew wafer thin transmitters into clothing."

Mr. Dunstan said that while it may be impossible to draft laws that would encompass all means of surveillance, every effort should be made to make legislation as wide ranging as possible. He said that bugging devices would be only one of the things Australians would have to guard their civil liberties from in the 1970's.

Others would be police dossiers on private people, the accessibility of private computer records, the freedom to read, and general police warrants that were at present granted for no specific reason at all.

.....